



Final Report: Child Care Subsidy for Essential Workers During the COVID-19 Pandemic

September 2020

On March 27, 2020 the President signed into law the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Within that act was additional funding for the states under the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG). Maine's share of that funding was \$10,953,470. The Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) within the Maine Department of Health and Human Services is tasked with administering CCDBG funding, including these additional CARES Act dollars.

OCFS took input from parents, providers, and advocates to assess the current needs and developed a plan which involved supporting both families and providers. This included stipend and grant opportunities for providers, as well as a program to subsidize child care for households where all parent(s)/guardian(s) were considered essential employees, were working outside of their home, were in need of regular child care provided by a non-relative. The essential employee subsidy was initiated on 4/22/2020 and ran through the week of 6/30/2020. The development and implementation of this program, known as Child Care Subsidy for Essential Workers, was created in recognition of the key role that essential workers played in ensuring the health and safety of all Mainers during the pandemic.

This report provides the final data on the Child Care Subsidy for Essential Workers program, including the total cost of the program, the number of children and families served, and some of the longer-term outcomes that resulted from this program.

Child Care Subsidy for Essential Workers

By the numbers:

\$10,953,470.00

Total amount of CARES Act CCDBG funding allocated to Maine

\$1,050,372.36

Amount of Maine's CARES Act CCDBG funding used for the Child Care Subsidy for Essential Workers program

9.6%

The percentage of Maine's CARES Act CCDBG funding used for the Child Care Subsidy for Essential Workers Program

617

Families who were over income guidelines for CCSP who received subsidy as essential workers

934

Children who received care under the Child Care Subsidy for Essential Workers program



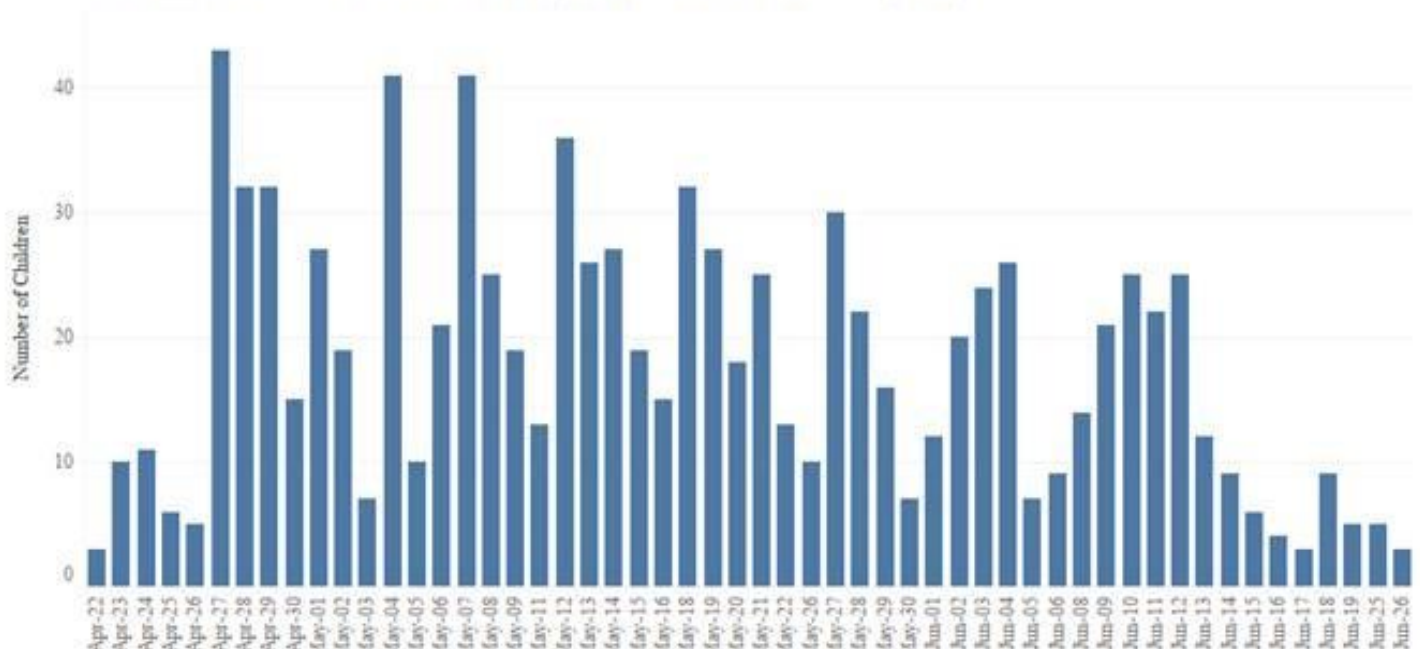
Long-Term Outcomes:

More providers are now aware of CCSP and are willing to accept subsidy. In March of 2020 there were 916 providers with a CCSP Provider Agreement, but by June that number had increased to 955.

income guidelines for regular CCSP were found eligible and continued to receive subsidy after the end of the Child Care Subsidy for Essential Works program.

Families that were not previously aware of CCSP began applying (regardless of their status as essential workers). In the last full month before the pandemic (February 2020), there were 55 new applications for CCSP. That number was 120 in July of this year.

New Authorizations of Child Care Subsidy for Essential Workers by Day



Children who Received Care under the Child Care Subsidy for Essential Workers Program:

COUNTY	INFANT	TODDLER	PRESCHOOL	SCHOOL AGE	TOTAL
ANDROSCOGGIN	14	38	36	35	123
AROOSTOOK	7	6	14	16	43
CUMBERLAND	21	79	105	53	254
FRANKLIN	2	5	7	5	19
HANCOCK	2		3	5	10
KENNEBEC	8	31	45	28	112
KNOX		4	3		7
LINCOLN	1	2	3	3	9
OXFORD	1	5	7	11	24
PENOBSCOT	12	24	46	30	112
PISCATAQUIS		4	3	5	12
SAGadahoc		7	7	7	21
SOMERSET	1	10	10	10	31
WALDO	2	9	3	3	17
WASHINGTON	2	10	11	8	31
YORK	16	30	37	26	109
Grand Total	89	264	340	245	934

Families who Received Care under the Child Care Subsidy for Essential Workers Program:

COUNTY	DISTINCT FAMILIES
ANDROSCOGGIN	78
AROOSTOOK	27
CUMBERLAND	168
FRANKLIN	11
HANCOCK	7
KENNEBEC	78
KNOX	4
LINCOLN	6
OXFORD	15
PENOBSCOT	78
PISCATAQUIS	6
SAGadahoc	14
SOMERSET	18
WALDO	13
WASHINGTON	19
YORK	76
Grand Total	617